

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic photograph producer incorporated with a four-in-one multi-function machine that includes a printer, scanner, photocopier and a facsimile, the automatic photograph producer comprising:

- 5                   a platform;
- a top panel;
- a storage area for temporarily holding a plurality of transparencies;
- an automatic feeder for transporting the transparencies stored inside the storage area to the platform sequentially;
- 10                  a penetrating light source on the top panel for projecting light onto the transparency on the platform during a scanning operation; and
- a printer for printing out an image of the scanned transparency.

2. The automatic photograph producer of claim 1, wherein the transparency includes film positives, film negatives and transparent documents.

15                  3. The automatic photograph producer of claim 1, wherein the penetrating light source includes a light panel.

4. The automatic photograph producer of claim 1, wherein the penetrating light source includes a mask.

5. The automatic photograph producer of claim 1, wherein the storage area is

20   above the top panel

6. The automatic photograph producer of claim 5, wherein the automatic feeder mounts on the top panel enclosing the storage area.

7. The automatic photograph producer of claim 1, wherein the producer further includes a position detector mounted on the top panel for determining if the transparency placed on the platform is properly positioned for scanning.

8. A method for producing photographs automatically using an automatic photograph producer together with a four-in-one multi-function machine that includes a printer, scanner, photocopier and a facsimile, the method comprising the steps of:

pushing an execution button;

scanning a transparency with light emitted from a penetrating light source;

and

printing out the image obtained by scanning the transparency image on a printing paper.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further includes the step of executing preparatory actions, the preparatory actions include:

feeding a transparency and a photographic printing paper into the four-in-one multi-function machine;

scanning the transparency and printing an image of the scanned transparency on the photographic printing paper; and

pre-scanning the transparency to determine the size of the transparency.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein after printing out an image of the scanned transparency further includes the step of:

ejecting the transparency and the printed photographic paper;

executing the preparatory actions, the scanning and the printing operations again until no transparencies await processing.

11 The method of claim 9, wherein before the step of pushing the execution button, further includes the step of changing the values of a set of preset parameters.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the preset parameters include the resolution of the photographic paper to be printed on, the number of copies to be printed and size of  
5 each copy.

100445431-011102